# ACT VI: CIRCUS * NAKAMACHI CIRCUS

# "THIRD CHAPTER"

OUAH!

BOXING

ZON

BOING

WHOAA! A BUCKET FELL ON MY HEAD!

CLAP CLAP

AIR

MEXICO

BRAVO

BRAVO!

CLAP

CLAP

YES... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

THE PEOPLE SEEM TO BE HAVING FUN!

THEY LURED THE CHILDREN WITH THEIR PUPPETS AND THEN ...

MAYBE... BUT THE NAKAMACHIS HAVE HAD SOME GOOD IDEAS!

HOWEVER, THAT SHOW'S NOTHING! WE CAN'T EVEN CALL THAT A CIRCUS!

THEY'RE ALL APPLAUDING!

I THOUGHT THEY WERE STUBBORN AND WOULD THEN HAVE TROUBLE HANDLING THAT SITUATION...

...BUT I WAS WRONG!

THEY ALSO CLEVERLY USED ITS CABLES BY CONNECTING THEM TO THEIR TRUCK AND THAT TREE ...

THEY MANAGED TO USE SHIROGANE'S GIANT PUPPET TO FILL IN FOR THEIR LACK OF EQUIPMENT.

...AS THE STORY PROGRESSES, THEY USE PUPPETS IN ORDER TO INTRODUCE THEIR OWN NUMBERS.

EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT WOULD WORK!

IN SPITE OF OUR SITUATION, OUR LACK OF MONEY AND EQUIPMENT,

HE CONVINCED ME TO SET UP THAT SHOW, AS YOU CAN SEE...

MASARU'S THE ONE WHO CAME UP WITH THE IDEA FOR THIS SHOW...

UNBE-LIEV-ABLE, ISN'T IT?

YES?

YOU KNOW, TARANDA...

ABSO-LUTELY!

I TOTALLY AGREE WITH YOU!

...YES!

...CUT OUT TO BE A GREAT CIRCUS PER-FORMER.

THAT KID'S...

YES!

THIS IS THEIR FINAL FIGHT, ISN'T IT?

OTHER-WISE, WE SHALL KILL YOU! WE'VE ALREADY SAVED THE PRINCESS!

SURRENDER, SNAKE KING!

I'M SAYING WE SHOULD BORROW THEIR EQUIP-MENT...

WHAT? WHAT'RE YOU SAYING, DAD?

HA HA HA! YOU THINK THAT YOU CAN BEAT ME?

HEY! THEY STOLE OUR SPEAKERS!

THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!

!

ZZNNB

...WHICH THEY DON'T NEED ANYMORE!

TAN TAN TAN

COME BACK HERE!

...BRING THEM BACK!!

WE MUST HOLD ON UNTIL HIRO AND NORI...

...WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?

WITHOUT THE SPEAKERS, WE CAN'T TELL OUR STORY ANYMORE...

SNAKE KING! YOU'RE A COWARD! HOW COULD YOU ORDER YOUR MEN TO STEAL OUR "VOICES"?!!

I'VE GOT AN IDEA!

WELL DONE, MASARU! GOOD IDEA!

ZAAN ZAAN ZAAN ZON

AH...

VVOM

DAAH

H

THIS MAGIC SWORD...

SHALL LEAD US TO VICTORY!

...TAKE OUT THE PLASTIC ROSE YOU'VE GOT IN YOUR POCKET!

SHIRO-GANE...

YOUNG MASTER... WHAT SHOULD I DO?

YAAAA!!

TAN

TAN

TAN

DAN

TA

SAH...

BOXING

BA TA TAN

WHY DOESN'T HE HIT THE SNAKE KING?

A ROSE?... BUT...

YOU'RE SO RIDICU-LOUS!!

...

ZAK

OKAY! SOUND'S BACK!

THIS FLOWER WHICH HAS BEEN BLOSSOMING IN MY HEART.

I WOULD REALLY HAVE LOVED TO SHOW THIS FLOWER TO THE PRINCESS...

AND HAVE HER COME TO MY CASTLE SO I COULD SHOW HER THIS FLOWER.

I WAS HOPING I COULD MARRY THE PRINCESS ...

THAT'S WHY NOBODY TRULY UNDERSTANDS MY HEART.

EVEN IF I INVITE PEOPLE, NO ONE EVER COMES...

I AM THE SNAKE KING AND BECAUSE OF THAT, NO ONE WOULD TALK TO ME.

DURING THESE LAST MOMENTS OF MY LIFE, I'D LIKE TO MAKE ONE LAST WISH...

BECAUSE I LOST, I HAVE TO PAY FOR ALL MY SINS... I UNDERSTAND NOW...

BUT, SHE'D NEVER EVEN LOOK AT IT...

BECAUSE I'D KIDNAPPED HER AND SHE WAS TOO SCARED.

...THAT HAS BLOOMED IN MY HEART!

PLEASE... LOOK AT THIS FLOWER...

I THINK I'D AGREE TO LOOK AT THE FLOWER!

THAT SNAKE KING'S NOT SO BAD, AFTER ALL!

SO, THAT'S IT?!... HE JUST WANTED TO SHOW HER A FLOWER?!

SPOT

I THINK I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN SUCH A FLOWER WAS BLOSSOM-ING IN YOUR HEART...

...

THE PRINCESS SAID, "MY POOR KING...

OH! ...MY PRINCESS !

TO PAY FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE, YOU'RE GOING TO...

...COME LIVE WITH ME IN MY CASTLE IN ORDER TO HELP ME GOVERN THE COUNTRY."

THIS FLOWER IS SO BEAUTIFUL, YOUR HEART CAN'T BE AS DARK AS PEOPLE THINK IT IS...

THAT'S HOW THE FIGHT AGAINST THE SNAKE KING CAME TO AN END...

...WE NEED MUSIC FOR THE "HAPPY ENDING"!

HOO!

NICELY DONE! THEY MANAGED TO HANDLE THAT SITUATION!

WHAT ABOUT THE CHIMNEY SWEEP THEN? WHAT'S HE GONNA DO?

... REALLY?

BEFORE PEOPLE HAD NOTICED THAT HE WAS GONE, THE LITTLE CHIMNEY SWEEP WAS ALREADY WANDERING IN ANOTHER COUNTRY...

THE LITTLE CHIMNEY SWEEP HAD ALREADY LEFT.

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU FOUGHT FOR THE PRINCESS' SAKE!

WHERE ARE YOU GONNA GO NOW?!

BUT MY OWN PLACE WILL ALWAYS BE WHERE THERE ARE CHIMNEYS...

AND THE LITTLE CHIMNEY SWEEP ANSWERED, "I'M WANDERING FROM ROOF TO ROOF, FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY...

"WHY DIDN'T YOU STAY WITH THE PRINCESS IN HER COUNTRY?"

THE WIND ASKED HIM,

PRIN-
CESS!

SNIF

THAT'S WHY I CAN'T STAY WITH THE PRINCESS."

I'LL PRAY FOR YOUR HAPPINESS! BE HAPPY!

"THE LITTLE CHIMNEY SWEEP AND THE SNAKE KING."

TODAY'S SHOW, CALLED...

THIS IS THE END OF...

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

BRAVO BRAVO BRAVO HOU RRA

FOR THE SNAKE KING'S MEN: MOROMI AND NAOTA MITSU'USHI

FOR THE CAT AND THE DOG: HIRO AND NORIYUKI

CLAP CLAP CLAP

MEXICO

PLAYING THE PRINCESS: MISS TARANDA LISELOTTE

CLAP

BOOO

DAMN!

PLAYING THE SNAKE KING, THE STORY TELLER OF OUR ADVENTURE AND MASTER OF THE GIANT PUPPET...

...MISS SHIROGANE!

CLAP CLAP

HOURRAA AA

AND FINALLY OUR LITTLE CHIMNEY SWEEP: MASARU!!

ACCORDION PLAYER: MYSELF, SHINOBU NAKAMACHI

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
25
BRAVO
YES... THE OLD MAN WE SAW EARLIER...
ARE YOU LOOK-ING FOR SOME-ONE?
OKAY!
COME ON, YUMI! LET'S GO SEE MASARU AND THE OTHERS!
WE'D LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING HERE TODAY!
By the way...
Hmm
I WONDER IF HE LIKED TODAY'S SHOW OR NOT...
HE MUST'VE COME TODAY HOPING TO SEE A GOOD SHOW...
MOM SAID THAT HE LOVES THE CIRCUS AND THAT HE HAS SEEN LOTS OF THEM THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE...
THAT'S NORMAL. WHAT WE'VE DONE TODAY ISN'T REALLY WHAT WE USUALLY CALL A "CIRCUS."
HMM ...
YES, I DID .. BUT HE WASN'T SMILING A LOT...
DID YOU WATCH HIM DURING THE SHOW, YUMI?

AH!

"Really?

YES... WE STILL HAVE PROGRESS TO MAKE.

DID YOU HEAR THAT, GUYS?! THERE ARE STILL LOTS OF THINGS WE NEED TO IMPROVE! DON'T BE SO FULL OF YOUR-SELVES!

YEP! IT REALLY GOT ME TOO!

OKAY... THAT WAS SOME CHILDISH STUFF, BUT...

CYCLE OTSUKA

...HE DID LIKE THE SHOW!

HEY! IN THE END...

THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS HAS BEEN GIVING PERFOR-MANCES REGULARLY ...

SINCE THAT DAY ...

TA N

THAT LITTLE FAMILY CIRCUS, THAT WAS ABOUT TO GO BANKRUPT, HAS FOUND HOPE AGAIN AND HAS STARTED TO BRING HAPPINESS TO A LOT OF PEOPLE.

...THANKS TO TWO PEOPLE WHO HAD EXPERIENCED EXTRAORDINARY THINGS

BY THE WAY...

ZZANN

ZZANN

...ANOTHER STORY...

FOR NOW, I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU...

WE'LL SOON BE SEEING MASARU AND THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS AGAIN.

...AS YOU ALREADY KNOW, THIS BOOK'S TITLE IS "KARAKURI CIRCUS". KARAKURI MEANS "WITH ANY OLD THING" OR "SHATTERED."

STARTING IN THE NEXT CHAPTER OF "KARAKURI CIRCUS," WE SHALL FOLLOW ANOTHER "KARAKURI" TOGETHER.

...THAT IS DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO ARLEQUIN!

NOW...

DAH

I'M COMING!

WE'RE LEAVING MASARU!

VRROMM

ZZANN

...FOR A WHILE.

...THE CURTAIN'S CLOSING ON OUR GREAT "CIRCUS" PERIOD...

SSA

H

000

# KARAKURI CIRCUS